

THE PROFILER

Newsletter of the College of Forensic Psychologists

Chair's Column

Dear members,

My time in recent weeks has been completely swallowed by conference duties, but it seems to have paid off. We have just over 200 delegates and an exciting programme. Thanks to the rest of the organising committee for their hard work, and to various national committee members for chipping in when needed, including when we were in somewhat of a panic at the slow rate of registrations in the early weeks. At one stage we were anxious as to how much the conference would lose (and therefore cost the college), but it looks like we should break even.

The major issues facing our college at present need all of our attention, so I hope that a good number of you will be able to get to the National General Meeting in April (follows immediately after the close of the conference). Those who won't be able to make it are encouraged to sign over proxy voting rights to someone who will be there who you can entrust your vote for those issues that require a show of hands.

The two most significant issues facing forensic psychology at the moment are (1) the limited number of training positions and the threat of more course closures which means a dwindling stream of new members, and (2) the notion among many psychologists from outside the college that anyone can do forensic work. There are some very good workshops that are conducted around the country on writing reports for courts and other tribunals, and many college members and other psychologists have benefitted from those PD events. However, knowing how to structure and present one's evidence is a small part of the forensic task. There is no point in knowing how to present expert opinions convincingly if one does not know how to collect probative data. That is a bit like teaching people how to write really good case notes, but not training those people in how to deliver effective psychological treatments. It is like assuming that because you are a

person you must somehow know how to do psychotherapy, so all we need to do is teach you how to write case notes that will convince other health professionals that you did a good job in delivering evidence-based treatment.

There is an assumption among our non-forensic colleagues that the routine assessment and interviewing methods that are appropriate for counselling and therapeutic work are also appropriate for forensic work. Nothing could be further from the truth. Good clinical training is not an adequate basis for competent forensic investigation work. All of us who were clinical psychologists or counselling psychologists before becoming forensic psychologists know that all too well. We need to ensure that lawyers and judicial officers and tribunal members around the country know it as well.

Two areas of work that the National Committee is continuing to work very hard on are (1) the development of a comprehensive and operationally-defined set of core competencies in forensic psychology, and (2) development of a number of practice guidelines in key areas of forensic practice. This work will define who we are and how we differ from other psychologists. If we don't define ourselves, someone else will do it for us – and will almost certainly get the definition very wrong. Over the next 12 months or more, those two areas of work will need the input of as many college members as possible. I trust that you will heed the call when it goes out.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the conference – there are not many days left before registration closes, but we will accept registrations at the door, so jump on a plane, train, bus, bike, or hitch a ride over the Nullarbor and buy your ticket at the door on April 18.

Dr Greg Dear

APS Forensic Psychology Conference 2013

Fremantle WA, 18 - 20 April 2013

The Esplanade Hotel Fremantle, Western Australia

The times are a changin': Controversies, competencies and DSM-5

The APS Forensic Psychology Conference will be held in Fremantle, Western Australia from 18 – 20 April 2013 at the Esplanade Hotel a 4½ star venue. Fremantle is only 20 minutes from Perth City, thirty minutes from Perth's domestic and international airport terminals. The Esplanade Hotel is only a short two minute stroll to Fremantle's famous café strip and local restaurants as well as a five minute walk to the closest beach allowing delegates to easily explore the port city by foot so making it a wonderful choice for our conference.

The theme for the 2013 national conference of the APS College of Forensic Psychologists will be *The times are a changin': Controversies, competencies and DSM-5*.

What are the controversies and challenges in contemporary forensic practice, and how do they relate to you? How will DSM-5 change our lives (or will it)? What are the new core competencies that define who are we? How will the new supervision regulations impact on our speciality? What are the cutting edge developments in forensic practice and research? Come along to the 4th APS National Forensic Psychology Conference in wonderful, wild Western Australia for a stimulating practice-focussed conference that will explore these issues and how they relate across the diverse areas of forensic psychological practice. Immerse yourself in practice-focussed seminars, master classes, debates, panel discussions and half-day workshops to explore the diversity within forensic psychology. The format for this conference has been revamped from previous formats to emphasise active learning – so prepare to be engaged, enlightened, challenged, and entertained over two and a half days of debate, practical workshops, and best-practice demonstrations across a diverse range of forensic settings and topics.

One of the highlights of this conference will be the opportunity to share an insider's view into the DSM-5 working parties and how the new criteria were developed for Personality Disorders and other disorders of forensic relevance. Keynote speaker Professor Robert Krueger from the DSM-V personality disorders working party will share his invaluable insights into the most significant changes in this area for many years. Be well informed prior to the DSM-5 publication in May 2013 and develop an understanding of how these major changes will impact on your forensic practice.

You will also have the opportunity to be informed by some of this region's leading forensic minds on what makes for good forensic practice in a diverse range of criminal, civil, and administrative areas. Explore contentious issues and learn how to navigate through the many challenges facing forensic psychologists in 2013 and beyond. Become a skilled and valued forensic practitioner.

Whether your interest is in evaluations for courts and other tribunals (expert evidence), forensic mental health, working with offenders, family law, child-protection, personal injury, civil capacities, or police, this conference will be of interest to you.

But don't let it be all business and no play. There will be a number of social opportunities for delegates to meet and mix with new and old acquaintances, not to mention the number of tourist things to do and see in the beautiful historic port city of Fremantle.

I look forward to seeing you Fremantle 18 - 20 April 2013.

Dr Greg Dear
Conference Chair

<http://www.groups.psychology.org.au/cfp/2013conference/>

US psychologists involved in interrogation and torture: What are we doing about it?

Dr Astrid Birgden (astrid99@hotmail.com)

In June 2012 I attended a John Jay College International Conference on Global Perspectives on Justice, Security and Human Rights in New York City. I was fortunate to attend a session delivered by S. Soldz, S. Reisner, T. Bond, and R. Eidelson entitled Psychologists and US torture: Complicity and accountability.

Four years earlier I had been shocked to discover that US psychologists had been involved in guiding the interrogation and torture of detainees carried out during the years of the Bush Administration in detention centres in Guantánamo Bay, Abu Ghraib, Bagram and "black sites" operated by the CIA in Europe and elsewhere. More shocking was that while the American Medical Association and the American Psychiatric Association had clearly directed their professions that engagement in such actions was unethical and undermined the treatment provider role, the American Psychological Association (APA) did not. I was on a panel at the International Congress of Applied Psychology in Melbourne in 2010 together with two APA members who had been in leadership roles at the time of the controversy- APA President Koocher and Ethics Committee Director Behnke. In my presentation on correctional ethics I had reviewed the following context.

In 2005, the Report of the American Psychological Association Presidential Task Force on Psychological Ethics and National Security was released-- it appeared to be more about national security than ethics. This was probably a reflection of the PENS Committee mostly consisting of members with military experience (6 out of 9) rather than academics critically analysing the evidence (does it work?) and/or ethicists considering the implications (is it the right thing to do?). Subsequently, the PENS Report concluded that "...consistent with the APA Ethics Code for psychologists to serve in consultative roles to interrogation and information-gathering processes for national security-related purposes, as psychologists have a long-standing tradition of

doing in other law enforcement contexts... psychologists are in a unique position to assist in ensuring that these processes are safe and ethical for all participants. Although the role of psychologists was denied by the APA, the Bybee Memos subsequently released by Obama in 2009 indicated that psychologists created, taught and implemented torture practices.

Birgden and Perlin (2009) argued that this imbalance between the role of psychologists as treatment provider (for the detainee) and as organisational consultant (for the community) resulted in a violation of human rights. Note that the APA is a UN-accredited NGO bound to honour international law. Nevertheless, the APA chose to weight domestic law in favour of international human rights law and the role of interrogators in favour of providing an ethic of care. In other words, detainees were used as a means to an ends for "community protection" (an unethical position). This willingness to assist the military presumably lead to employment and research funds (Soldz, 2009). This astounding outcome is a warning to all forensic psychologists engaged in coercive environments to avoid such a slippery ethical slope and to ensure that you work within an ethical framework that is based on enforceable universally shared human values regarding dignity and rights.

Fast forwarding to June 2012... the Coalition for an Ethical Psychology is asking that the PENS Report be withdrawn as it is considered illegitimate. The coalition of health professionals, social scientists, social justice and human rights scholars and activists, and concerned military and intelligence professionals are asking individuals and organisations to sign a petition that can be found at: <http://ethicalpsychology.org/pens/>

As a member of the International Union of Psychological Science, the APS fully endorsed the UN Declaration and Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment 1987 and regarded all forms of torture as breaches of the Society's Code of Ethics (2003) General Principle III Propriety. However, I

US psychologists involved in interrogation and torture: What are we doing about it? (cont'd)

learned at the conference in NYC that the APS had not responded to a request in October 2011 to sign the petition. Upon my return to Australia, I asked that the APS reply to the Coalition's request and APS President Simon Crowe responded that the issue would be placed as an agenda item at the next Board meeting. To date, 34 organisations (including Divisions of the APA, but not including the APS) and 2,269 individuals have signed. Myself and 18 concerned Australians have signed- and YOU CAN TOO at www.ethicalpsychology.org/pens. In July 2012, the US Coalition for an Ethical Psychology provided a Resolution to Annul the APA's PENS Report to the APA Board and Council but at March 2013 it had not yet been brought forward to the APA's Council of Representatives (in other words, in less bureaucratic goobledogook, it's being stymied!).

Meanwhile, in December 2012 I received a response from the APS saying they had discussed my query at a Board meeting and that they would forward me the final recommendations that had previously been made, "I will let everyone know when I hear back from the APS Board in the next edition of The Profiler".

Should the APS Forensic College become an organisational signatory to the petition? Have a look at the website and let me know what you think by contacting me at astrid99@hotmail.com

References:

Birgden, A & Perlin, M. L. (2009). "Tolling for the Luckless, the Abandoned and Forsaken": Therapeutic jurisprudence and international human rights law as applied to prisoners and detainees by forensic psychologists. *Legal and Criminological Psychology*, 13, 231-243.

Soldz, S. (2009). Closing eyes to atrocities: US psychologists, detainee interrogations, and the response of the American Psychological Association. In R. Goodman & M. J. Roseman (Eds.), *Interrogations, forced feedings, and the role of health professionals: New perspectives on international human rights, humanitarian law and ethics* (pp.103–142). Cambridge, MA: Human Rights Program, Harvard Law School. Retrieved January 25, 2009, from <http://tinyurl.com/cc9yw4>

Links of Interest

The following are not endorsed by the College or the APS, but may be of interest to readers.

www.anzappl.org

Established in the late 70's, the Australian and New Zealand Association of Psychiatry, Psychology And Law (ANZAPPL) is committed to exploring the relationship between psychiatry, psychology and the law.

www.aija.org

The AIJA is a research and educational institute associated with Monash University. The principal objectives of the Institute include research into judicial administration and the development and conduct of educational programmes for judicial officers, court administrators and members of the legal profession in relation to court administration and judicial systems.

Queensland Branch Report - Rebekah Doley (Chair)

At the last AGM of the QLD branch of the APS College of Forensic Psychologists new members were welcomed onto the organising committee. Past and present committee members would like to formally acknowledge the tireless work of Dr Gavan Palk, out-going Chair of the Committee. Gavan Palk has been a Member of the APS College of Forensic Psychologists since 2001. His involvement in the College of Forensic Psychologists committees has included Chair (Qld Section) 2005 - 2007; 2008 – 2010; 2010 – 2012; and Committee Member 2012- 2014. He is an active member of the National Committee of the APS College of Forensic Psychologists and provided a leadership role as Chair of the APS College of Forensic Psychologists 2011 National Conference, being instrumental in the success of that conference.

The current Executive Committee comprises Rebekah Doley (Chair), Diane Barber (Deputy Chair), Bruce Watt (Treasurer), Katarina Fritzon (Secretary), and Therese Ellis-Smith (Professional Development Co-ordinator). Other Committee members are Michelle Perrin, Stephen Morgan, Alec Jones, Gavan Palk, and Tim Lowry.

Members

In the most recent statistics promulgated by the APS, it was noted that of the 293 people with forensic endorsements, 30 are in QLD, however, we have 85 members of the Forensic College registered in QLD. This number reflects affiliates and students as well as full members, we assume.

Finances

The opening Queensland Forensic College fund as of 31 May 2012 was \$4,988.72. Across 6 workshops and seminars, income generated was \$4,286.36. Expenses during the same period was \$5,764.17, including workshop expenses \$2,069.64, Christmas function and seminar for members \$1,486.36, speaker fees \$2,000, conference call \$184.17, and travel

\$24.00. Balance for the Queensland Forensic College to 31 January 2013 is \$3,510.91.

Committee activities 2012

The Committee continued in 2012 to provide a range of professional development opportunities tailored to meet the needs of members as identified by our member survey conducted in late 2010. Seminars and workshops were provided across the following topics: Duelling Experts: Practical aspects of giving expert evidence - Prof Ian Coyle; Forensic Psychologists in Family Court - Mediation and Report Writing - Denise Britton & Mike Emerson; Demystifying the psychologist role with the Family Court: Practical and Conceptual Issues - Dr Deborah Wilmoth; The Good Lives Model of Offender Rehabilitation - Professor Tony Ward; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Forensic Mental Health - Kimina Anderson; Investigating Deaths in Custody - Issues for Psychologists - Neil McAllister.

This year the Committee has planned another series of informative and stimulating seminars and workshops around key areas of relevance to forensic psychologists generally. Our first seminar introduces the work of Professor Theresa Gannon, University of Kent, UK who will be speaking on treatment issues relevant to female sex offenders. Details for the year's activities are still being finalised, however a list of planned topics includes: Treating Female Sex Offender - Professor Teresa Gannon (23 February-confirmed); DPSOA legislation; Drug treatment including treatment and case management issues; Professional Issues for Forensic Psychologists; Working with Juvenile Offenders; and Recovery in Forensic Mental Health.

We have also focused on broadening the scope of professional development events to ensure the needs of rural and remote members are being addressed. To this end a bursary for rural and remote practitioners to assist in travel costs associated with attending events in Brisbane has been established. Opportunities for video-

Queensland continued

conferencing have been explored and the Committee continues to provide support to encourage professional development events for our members in Northern Queensland. Recently we identified that few graduate and undergraduate students have been attending forensic college seminars and workshops.

To encourage attendance, and later recruitment to the college, we have provided some professional development activities with no fee for full-time students.

In 2013 we will be conducting our second survey of branch members to identify professional development requirements for 2014/15.

We have also commenced a process of strategic planning which is almost ready for submission to the National Committee for comment. A range of documents was accessed in the preparation of the current strategic plan including:

- APS College of Forensic Psychologists by Alfred Allan: Strategic Plan 2009-2014
- Australian Psychological Society: Strategic Plan 2008 – 2011
- British Psychological Society - Forensic Update Newsletter (April 2012),
- BPS Division of Forensic Psychology - Strategy Review 2007-2012
- BPS Division of Forensic Psychology (Scotland) Strategic Plan 2009-2010
- Discussion with Gavan Palk, immediate past Chair, QLD branch College of Forensic Psychologists

In an appendix a summary is provided of examples of strategic policies of other professional psychology organisations including the APS, APS Forensic College, and the BPS Division of Forensic Psychology. These are

included as reference points and provide some context for strategic planning across both national and international forensic psychology domains. Examination of these documents highlighted current areas of strategic foci for the QLD group. There appear to be four core strategic areas for the College of Forensic Psychologists QLD group to be focusing on over the coming two year period (2013 – 2014).

These include:

1. The professional identity of Forensic Psychology in QLD
2. Membership
3. Professional standards and support for the discipline
4. Engagement with stakeholders

The working group then developed three broad 'core aims' to address each of the first three areas listed above, with the fourth, stakeholder engagement, forming a core strategy under each of the core aims. Once ratified by the National Committee, the Branch will determine action strategies for implementation.

NSW Branch Chair's Report - Dr C. Lennings.

Committee Meetings. This year we CARRIED five Committee meetings, and the AGM in February and Christmas Party in December. There has been good attendance at the committee meetings this year, with a strong and dedicated committee. Although it was proposed we should have awards this year, no names were suggested from the meeting at which this was discussed. Given we have money in kitty we should look at this for the coming year.

The Committee has been concerned about the College's role, which has variously been seen to promote members interests, provide PD, and engage with the wider community in a way that promotes Forensic Psychology. I will provide a report around those three issues.

Promote Members interests.

1. Membership for the National College stands (as of December, 2012) at 527 with 368 full members of the College. I do not know how many that is in full members for our State but our total membership is 232. That is we make up 44% of the College members including student members and affiliates. The College has grown slightly this year.
2. Student Members: This year our student rep Charleen Marietti has joined the real world and we thank her for her efforts and involvement, and Timothy Wu has moved into her role. Promoting our work with students has not been a feature of the College this year, although we have supported the UNSW Forensic Conference program. This is an area we may want to consider in future years. Various models including mentoring programs, have been considered in other places and might be a feature of further involvement, but also providing input into 3rd and 4th year students is probably something we need to consider.
3. Clinical Services issues. This year like previous years, we have had ongoing discussions about the Authorised Report Writer Issue. Pan has been instrumental and inspirational in guiding this, although his cynicism is reaching new heights. We have received APS backing and strong backing from the National College of Forensic Psychologists, but sadly the support of the National College of Clinical Psychologists evaporated. In my discussions with the State Chair of the Clinical college it does not seem the evaporation occurred as any National/State consultation. The issue is on the back burner at the moment as the ARW scheme has been stopped for the time being pending a review by VCT. It is not at all clear what the scope of that review is. The National College is supportive of some kind of legal challenge should the discriminatory action of the VCT continue but for any such action to work we would need National Office backing – of which I am uncertain.
4. Related to the ARW issue, the MAA Guidelines review came out late last year, with a form of words that at face value would cut out all but CCN members doing MAA reports. Although the impact on this is strongest felt in the Clinical College, it has ramifications for members of the Forensic College and the Ed/Dev College as well. Initially there was a joint response, with the CNN, CLIN, Ed/Dec and Forensic College, aligned with the State Branch and with what we thought was the support of National Office addressing this issue. However, some behind the scenes machinations between National Office and some nameless CNN members stymied the joint approach agreed upon. We are back to square one and await the release of the guidelines without a clear idea of what they will say, but with a pessimistic expectation. I have to thank Ann Lucas who was co-opted to assist me in the negotiations and meetings on this topic. Basically she did most of the work.
5. In late 2012 the State Government decided to get tough on crime again and has effectively terminated the Cedar Cottage Diversion program, the excuse given that it allowed offenders to escape the consequences of their actions. How requiring children to give evidence against their parents will lead to a more just and accountable system, let alone one with actual convictions, is yet to be seen. Despite strong protests and good cooperation between State and National College we were brushed aside.
6. Arising out of the above issues, I have, with the support of Kathryn Nicholson Perry from the Clinical College, set about forming a State Heads of Colleges forum so that inter collegial discussion, sharing of PD, and other resources, may occur such that we can head off some of the internecine disputes that have bedevilled the College this last year. We all see the point of it, let us hope it leads somewhere.

7. An issue for the college has been the bridging plans for entry into it. Applications for membership other than through a recognised course have closed. I have received complaints from people working as forensic psychologists but unable to join the college because they have not been through an accredited course, despite lots of relevant PD. Pathways to membership and restriction on them remains a threat to College growth.

Promote PD.

Last year we were working off the PD calendar developed the year before. The committee took the view we would not have a PD coordinator but rather committee members would put their hand up to take on specific PD responsibilities. Workshops that have run in the 2012 year include:

1. PRISM (Promoting Risk Management by Situational Management) by Caroline Hare, a UK based Forensic Psych on 11.5.12 at DCS Head Office
2. Supervision workshop by Anita McGregor at Sydney P&P office on Friday 30.11.12.
3. Although not a work shop the College endorsed the two day student conference conducted by the University of New South Wales Forensic Psychology section.
4. Two proposed events, a follow up with Mitch Byrne on Psychopathy and a combined event on sport and drug use (organised by Peter with Ferry Lee fro the Sports College) had to be postponed.

For this coming year, three events are planned (so far). These are the forensic neuropsychology workshop on the 5th April with Dr Susan Pulman and the Schema Workshop, a three day affair, in late August with Dr Chris Lee. The drugs in sport seminar to be co-sponsored with the Sport Psychology College is running in March.

Last year saw a number of forensic training days being run by either the National APS training program or by the Sydney Section. We hope to have future State based forensic programs coordinated through the college, so better control, input and advertising of PD activities for forensic psychologists is available in one place. I do not think there is much we can do about the National Office agenda, but as a State all Colleges and State Chair are banding together to try and convince the National Office to coordinate their PD offerings with the State chairs.

Engage with the Community.

There have been two strategies for engaging with the community. The first was through State based involvement with National College initiatives. The State College participated in National College activities, including commentaries on the proposed ethical guidelines, clinical guideline, supervision guidelines and submission to APAC in regards to Course accreditation. In return the National College has been prominent in its support for the disputes around the ARW and MAA issue and support for Cedar Cottage.

To the best of my knowledge the College did not get involved with Psychology Week, a strategy open to us next year if we think we can usefully use it to raise the profile of the Forensic College in the community.

Individual members have been involved in radio, print, TV and internet based outlets discussing matter in relation to forensic psychology. This is however very ad hoc, although a mechanism exists through the APS media office for organising greater media awareness. I am already a spokesperson for the APS on forensic issues and registered with National Office for that purpose. A major issue we may need to consider is the recent implementation of the Royal Commission into sexual abuse and whether, as a College we wish to make a statement or become involved in this process. It is not clear to me how that might happen at this point, however.

Summary.

In all it has been a much more active 12 months that I had imagined. As the largest branch of the College such level of activity may have been thought likely, but to date much of the running for the College has been undertaken by the National College and I thank Greg Dear, Michael Daffern and Gavin Palk in particular for their efforts on behalf of the State College. The Committee deserves a demonstration of support from the members for their hard work. If people have ideas of PD or anything that might promote the reputation of forensic psychology or the benefit of the members please let me know.

South Australia Branch Report

The SA Branch of the College of Forensic Psychologists again had a busy and successful year. We have seen maintenance in our membership numbers with 39 members in South Australia. We also successfully secured Sky Lambert as a student member of the college and the committee – welcome!

Our Professional Development series this year has been varied and covered a number of interesting areas. Specifically, we saw Prof Tony Ward attend in February of this year, presenting on the Good Lives Model and Desistance; Dr. Robyn Young and Dr. Erin Bullus presenting on Developmental Disorders and Forensic Behaviour; Dr. Mark Reid focusing on Neuropsychological Assessment in the Forensic Arena, and we are due to have Ms. Louisa Hackett present on Working With Young Offenders. We also ran an information filled day workshop led by international guest speaker, Dr. Lawrence Jones. He provided our members with detailed research on Working with Personality Disordered people who offend. The session was held at the Hackney Hotel and feedback for the venue was quite positive.

At this stage, 2013 and the Professional Development series are not yet confirmed, although it is likely that the SA Branch College Chairs will meet early in the New Year to link together to provide a monthly seminar that covers a variety of interest areas. From our perspective, we have a number of areas that might be of interest – such as Psychologists as Expert Witnesses, Working with Female Offenders, Low Functioning Sexual Offenders, Violence in Aboriginal Communities, and perhaps looking at Domestic Violence, is it individual or reciprocal? The committee have discussed organising another Dinner Seminar with a dynamic speaker to allow for networking and interaction between members and colleagues.

Given our success in the last two years of linking in with the Victorian Branch of the college, it is likely that we will again pursue options that might be available to bring another international speaker to Australia. Suggestions from members will be well received and assistance to organise a logistical masterpiece is also welcome.

I would like to take the time to thank the

committee of the SA Branch, making particular mention to outgoing committee members, Oscar Williams and Bernadette Dempsey. Both have elected to step down from the committee for a period of time so on behalf to the College I would like to say thank you. Further, our longstanding treasurer, Dr. Jack White has offered to step down from this position. It is hoped he will remain a committee member, however, we must express much thanks and appreciation for all Jack (and Judy) has contributed to the SA Branch for a number of years. In our call for nominations, I understand that Katherine Hawkins has nominated to remain as secretary, and further Luke Broomhall was nominated to take the roll of Chairperson given that I have stood for two years in the position. Louisa Hackett expressed her intention to remain on the committee and will likely be approached to take on the treasurer role.

The future of the college is up to the dedication of its members, and it is with this in mind that I ask all members to consider involving themselves in the committee. I know I am looking forward to 2013 and the opportunity for the SA Branch of the APS to link together demonstrating to the National Branch that our colleges and members see the common goods associated with being trained psychologists.

In closing, I'd like to thank Jack White (treasurer), Louisa Hackett (Secretary), Katherine Hawkins (PD Support/Secretary), Oscar Williams, Bernadette Dempsey, and Sky Lambert for their continued support of the college. Thank you also for the support afforded to me in the process of my "finding my feet" as the SA Branch Chairperson of the CFP, it has been fun J

Emma Warne

Outgoing Chairperson

College of Forensic Psychologists, SA Section

December 2012

Western Australia Branch Report

Current Membership: 34 members

Finances: \$3293

CPD Activities

The committee has been busy organising the conference to be held in Fremantle, during April 18-20, 2013.

Two CPD events were held during the past year:

1. *Supervision Discussion* - August, 2012
A joint seminar was held with the Clinical Neuropsychology College to discuss supervision training. Professor Alfred Allan was invited to provide an overview of the Psychology Board of Australia changes to requirements for supervision and supervisor training. This was a very successful event which generated good discussion of the challenges facing small colleges with highly specialised areas of skills and expertise. We're looking forward to future opportunities for future collaborations with our Clinical Neuropsychology colleagues.
2. *Fitness to Stand Trial Workshop* - 3 December 2012
Our very own Greg Dear presented a one day workshop which covered a model to guide evaluating applicants against the criteria set out in sec 9 of the relevant Act to determine whether or not an individual is fit or not. Training was also provided in the skills necessary to conduct these assessments.

Upcoming CPD

1. *Presentation by His Honour Judge Robert Cock QC* - February 20, 2013
His Honour Robert Cock QC, the Chair of the Prisoner's Review Board has been invited to present on the state review board's perspective on independent psychological assessments. Questions to be addressed include: what circumstances lead to independent reports being called for, what does the Board require from independent report writers? This promises to be an interesting talk!
This will be talk will be followed by our AGM

2. *Risk Assessment in Child Protection* – 11-12 March, 2013

This 2 day workshop be presented by Chris Lennings will provide information on risk and protective factors in child maltreatment, and research on risk factors related to child abuse and neglect, and parenting. Participants will also have the opportunity to gain skills in the use of actuarial and professional judgement tools with Australian families through the use of a parenting capacity assessment framework.

Committee Initiatives

A key task for the committee in 2013 is to keep local members more informed of what is key issues and developments in forensic psychology. The committee will be expanding the CPD co-ordinator role to include regular communication with members. We have been discussing possible avenues for achieving through using through the bulk emailer and possibly social media initiatives to inform members of important cases, new articles and interesting blogs.

Blog—Karen Franklin

Karen Franklin, PhD is a forensic psychologist in California, USA. She blogs about forensic psychology, criminology and psychology-law.

"Narcoanalytics" Order in Aurora Massacre Case Unprecedented

News flash:

There is no such thing as 'truth serum'

Published on March 19, 2013 by Karen Franklin,
Ph.D. in Witness

The judge presiding over the trial of accused killer James Holmes has broken new legal ground by ordering the Aurora Colorado massacre suspect to submit to polygraph testing and "narcoanalytic interview" if he decides to put his mental state issue.

Chief District Judge William Sylvester ruled that if Holmes elects to pursue an insanity defense, "medically appropriate" drugs can be administered during a forensic examination at the state hospital, presumably to determine whether the mass murder suspect is feigning insanity.

This may be the first time that a court has mandated use of so-called "truth serum" in a sanity evaluation. Indeed, courts have generally taken the opposite stance, of being gatekeepers who exclude the results of both sodium amyntal and polygraph examinations from court due to their lack of reliability.

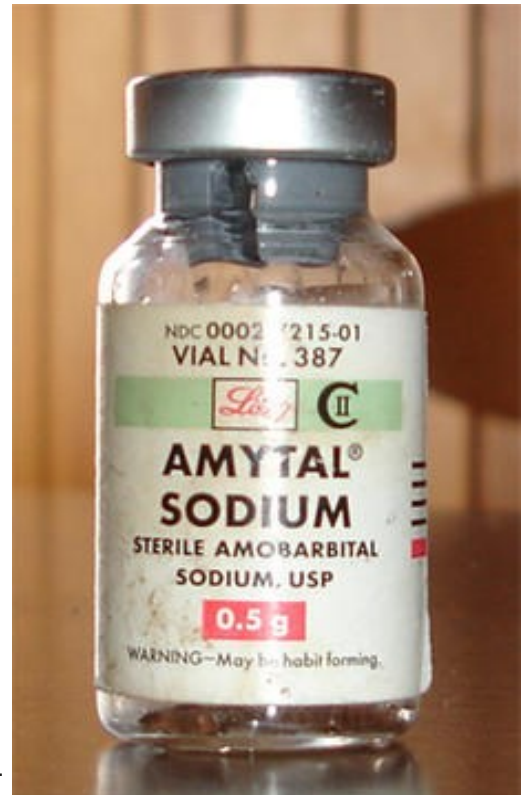
The full article can be found through Psychology Today www.psychologytoday.com/blog/witness/201303/narcoanalytics-order-in-aurora-massacre-case-unprecedented

Reprinted with permission from the author.

Karen's regular forensic psychology blog is found at <http://forensicpsychologist.blogspot.com/>

Submissions for inclusion in the next edition of 'The Profiler' to:-

The Editor
Ros Nelson
Rosnelson13@gmail.com



a
at